with those of civil employees of Central Government of equivalent status. In addition, the Armed Forces personnel are given a number of other perquisites and facilities not admissible to civilian employees. Review of terms and conditions of Defence Services is an on-going process and such revisions as are considered desirable and feasible are made from time to time.

Gun development team in Ordnance Factory Jabalpur

4703. SHRI SHIV PRASAD CHANPURIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any 'gun development team' existing inside the Ordnance Factory GCF Jabalpur under Ministry of Defence and if so, since when it is existing;

(b) what are their achievements and contributions to the defence forces of the country;

(c) whether any awards were given to any member of the team;

(d) whether it is permanent;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether there is any move to shift the team elsewhere and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Gun Development team was constituted temporarily in 1964 and was wound up on 31 December 1991.

(b) The team had developed Indian Mountain Gun System, Indian Field Gun System and its lighter version.

(c) Three service officers of the team were given awards for their work.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) The team was formed on a temporary basis for specific projects.

(f) Does not arise in view of answers to parts (d) and (e) above.

Overhauling of unviable defence production units

4704. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:
SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER b pleased to state:

(a) whether some unviable defenc productions units are to undertake a ma sive overhauling programme to overcom their shortcomings;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any action plan has bee drawn therefor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (d) The Ord ance Factory Board and the defence pu lic sector undertakings have plans f selective modernisation of their produ tion facilities. The plans are evolved aft a thorough consideration of technical a commercial aspects. As regards details plans, it will not be in the public intere to disclose.

Concern expressed by Japan on hi military expenditure

4705. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARM Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleas to state:

(a) whether Japanese Governme have recently conveyed its concern ov assistance being given to countries wi high military expenditure, if so, t details thereof;

(b) whether a Japanese Governme high level mission on economic a technical cooperation has recently soug clarification from Indian Governme regarding its nuclear plans alongwith i ballistic development and deployme initiatives as reported in the Hindust Times dated the 30th March, 1995; a

(c) if so, the details thereof a reactions of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE INISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The cond High level ODA Mission on :onomic and Technological Cooperation)m Japan held talks with officials in the inistry of Finance on 28.3.95, during iich, in accordance with Japanese ODA)licy since 1992, the Japanese side ferred to certain non-economic factors)n-proliferation of nuclear weapons and issile delivery systems and trends in :fence expenditure.

(c) The Japanese delelgation was iefed about India's commitment to non-oliferation and disarmament. They ere informed that our defence :penditure as a percentage of GDP was ie of the lowest in the region. It was)inted out that these issues are scussed regularly in Foreign Office)nsultations.

oast Guard to Combat Environmental disasters

4706. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR IRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be leased to state:

(a) whether the Coast Guard propose) enhance surveillance for combating nvironmental disasters;

(b) if so, the details of the plans nvisaged by Coast Guard;

(c) whether the Coast Guard is facing inancial constrain to effectively mplement their plans; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN):(a) to (d) A National :ontingency plan to enhance surveillance for combating environmental disaster by Coast Guard (CG) has been drawn up. This envisages:

(i) Maritime reconnaissance by CG fixed wing aircraft fitted out with requisite sensors.

(ii) Random surveillance by available CG ships for detection of oil spills.

(iii) Formation of Crisis Management Groups at three levels to coordinate actions of a large number of inter-Ministerial agencies with a view to assess and combat oil pollution disasters in the Maritime Zones of India.

(iv) Formation of highly trained task force (three response teams based at Bombay, Madras and Port Blair) to assist and combat oil pollution at sea.

(v) Acquisition of dedicated pollution control equipment and pollution response vessels to combat oil pollution.

Government endeavours to provide all assistance to the Coast Guard which is commensurate with the task assigned and subject to the availability of funds.

Production of Prithvi Missiles

4707. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of Prithvi missiles is being slowed down; and

(b) if so, the reasons for capping of the production of missiles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The users' trials of 'Prithvi', surface-to-surface tactical battle field missile have been completed. Subsequent activities are being progressed.

letters written by M.Ps

4708. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL *ALIAS* MEEM AFZAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of letters written by the Members of Parliament to the Ministry of Defence during the period